

Electronic copy protections will unduly stifle fair use of copyrighted material. For example, at my house, my wife and I watch half a dozen television programs weekly, but hardly any of them at the time the network chooses for us to watch. Should I be unable to time-shift a program because the network says it wasn't "broadcast"? Simply, if the networks are using our airwaves, they are certainly broadcasting the works, and they should be available for recording.

The producers of the information will rebut that the digital nature of the medium allows lossless copies of the information, so it must be illegal to make any (fair use or otherwise) copies without the express permission of the producer.

The producers overlook one fact - that someone somewhere will find a way to defeat the copy protection and make illegal copies available to the community at large. Given that it will be done, should the law-abiding citizens be hindered by copy restrictions placed on them by a corporation?

The digital medium does not substantially change the nature of the information being provided or the nature of the copies. Allowing copy protection just because the information is digital is absurd.